THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION

MICHAEL DAVID SILLS)	
and MARY SILLS,	
)	
Plaintiffs,	
)	CASE NO. 3:23-cv-00478
v.)	
	JUDGE WILLIAM L. CAMPBELL, JR
)	Magistrate Judge Chip Frensley
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,)	
et al.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendants.	

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION AND ROLLAND SLADE'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT WITH RESPECT TO PLAINTIFF MARY SILLS

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and Rolland Slade (collectively the "ECSBC"), pursuant to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, respectfully move for summary judgment in their favor as there is no genuine issue of material fact and the ECSBC is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. In support of this Motion, the ECSBC states as follows, and further incorporates the reasons set forth in the accompanying Memorandum of Law:

1. The sole basis for the claims of Mary Sills is that in 2022, then SBC President, Dr. Bart Barber, retweeted a post made by Eric Geiger on X, formerly known as Twitter. Mrs. Sills' claims based upon this retweet are barred by the immunity provided by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act ("CDA"). 47 U.S.C. §230(c)(1).

2. Aside from immunity provided by the CDA, the statements in Eric Geiger's original Tweet, that Dr. Barber retweeted, are not actionable as a matter of law. Mr. Geiger's statement that an email Mary Sills sent to Jennifer Lyell had a "threatening" tone is a statement of opinion of Mr. Geiger's subjective interpretation of the email. The statements in the email that Mrs. Sills knew of the sexual relationship were true and otherwise not defamatory.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Brigid M. Carpenter

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